

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A helmet system for a player engaged in contact sports, comprising:
 - a. a helmet shell having inner and outer surfaces reinforced with a bonded net or mesh of long length fibers comprising long-length para-aramid or high density polyethylene reinforcing fibers, said helmet shell being composed of a polymeric material selected from the group consisting of poly-alpha-olefins, homopolymers of ethylene, copolymers of ethylene and other alpha-olefins, polyamides, polycarbonate, polyvinyl chloride, cellulose acetobutyrate, polybutylene terephthalate, polyoxymethylene polymers, polyester, and epoxy;
 - b. a pliable, padded inner helmet attached to said inner surface of said helmet shell, said inner helmet being composed of shock absorbing material; and
 - c. an attachment means disposed within said helmet shell for positioning and holding said second pliable padded inner helmet in contact with the player's head, said helmet shell producing a low curvature bend under impact load, increasing contact area between said inner surface and said inner helmet to thereby increase load absorption and decrease load intensity at the player's head.
2. (cancelled)
3. (original) A helmet system as recited by claim 1, wherein said helmet shell has a thickness ranging from about 1/16 to 1/4 inch.

4. (cancelled)
5. (original) A helmet system as recited by claim 1, wherein said net or mesh has a length greater than 1 inch.
6. (original) A helmet system as recited by claim 1, wherein said inner helmet is composed of energy absorbing polymeric foam.
7. (original) A helmet system as recited by claim 1, wherein said inner helmet has a thickness ranging from about 0.5 to 1 inch.
8. (original) A helmet system as recited by claim 1, wherein said attachment means comprises a strap.
9. (currently amended) In a helmet system having a helmet shell fabricated by injection molding a polymeric material into a molding cavity, the improvement wherein said polymeric material is at least one material selected from the group consisting of poly-alpha-olefins, homopolymers of ethylene, copolymers of ethylene and other alpha-olefins, polyamides, polycarbonate, polyvinyl chloride, cellulose acetobutyrate, polybutylene terephthalate, polyoxymethylene polymers, polyester, and epoxy, and a mesh or net of long length fibers comprising long-length para-aramid or high density polyethylene reinforcing fibers is disposed on both faces of the helmet molding cavity and integrally bonded with said polymeric material during molding to form a composite helmet shell.
10. (cancelled)
11. (previously presented) A helmet system as recited by claim 1, wherein said polymeric material is polycarbonate.

12. (previously presented) A helmet system as recited by claim 1, wherein a full length of said fibers is said mesh or net is aligned in the direction of tension and compression imposed on said surfaces of said helmet during impact.